

## A Look at the History Behind National Women's History Month

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (CA) Commission on the Status of Women commenced a "Women's History Week" celebration. As March 8th had previously been deemed International Women's Day, it was chosen as a focal point for the week-long commemoration. The week's events would include a "multicultural perspective" and would "recognize the connection between and among all women and celebrate the important role of women in the paid labor force." The enthusiastic response with which area schools met the activities caused Women's History Week to become an annual event locally.

At a conference in 1979 discussing the importance of using

Women's History Week as a focal celebration to recognize and celebrate women's historic accomplishments, the participants—among them Molly Murphy MacGregor, former Director of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women—unanimously decided to work towards an official Congressional Resolution that would declare the week of March 8th as "National Women's History Week." March 1980 marked President Jimmy Carter's presidential message to the American people, encouraging "the recognition and celebration of women's historic accomplishments during the week of March 8th, Women's History Week." Former Representative Barbara Mikulski and Senator Orrin Hatch, in the end of 1980, co-sponsored the first

joint Congressional Resolution that, beginning in 1981, declared the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.

With the goal of providing a national source for general information about women's history and for use as a venue to provide specific information about National Women's History Week celebrations, in 1980 the National Women's History Project (NWHP) was born as a nonprofit organization out of Santa Rosa, CA. Through the support of the NWHP, many state departments of education were able to promote programs about National Women's History Week as a means of providing a more diverse curriculum. In the span of a few years' time, thousands of schools and community programs nationwide were

celebrating National Women's History Week, and, "In 1987, at the request of women's organizations, museums, libraries, youth leaders, and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the national celebrations to the entire month of March. A National Women's History Month Resolution was quickly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Since 1992, a Presidential Proclamation has carried the directive for what is now a major national and international celebration."

\*\* Sources consulted and works cited for this page:

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/history-of.html>.

"The 2004 theme, 'Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility' celebrates the hope and sense of possibility that comes to our lives from the inspirational work of women. Hope comes in many forms from laws challenged and changed, new medical research, stories of compassion and courage, and watching women stand tall against great odds. The eight 2004 Honorees represent this vision of hope in myriad ways. Their stories affirm the American spirit and embody the truest meaning of hope and possibility. Their lives and work provide guideposts of hope for our future and for our children and remind us all of what the human spirit can achieve if our eyes are fixed on our greatest potential."



Sarah Buel



Edna Campbell



Jill Ker Conway



Marian Wright Edelman

### THE 2004 NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREES



Dr. Susan B. Love



Vilma Martinez



Leslie Marmon Silko



Maxine Hong Kingston



For complete biographies on each honoree, visit <http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/honorees04.html>.



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## REFLECTIONS FROM "THE PASSION"

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

One week into Lent and I'm sure I'm not the only one who has been tempted to break my promise and give into temptation. At a time in my life when things generally come easy for me (save the stress and commitment of classes and extracurriculars), "giving something up" for Lent is a pretty big to-do. Having friends, family, and members of the church to turn to when the going gets tough is an immense help—sometimes just knowing that other people falter and want to quit is all the comforting one needs in order to keep oneself on track. But then there are the times for which those comfort devices can offer no consolation. In the past, I do not remember what I did in order to stay true to my promise when I felt I no longer could. But now I have the film "The Passion of the Christ" to look to in order to remind me of the reason and necessity of my commitment.

"The Passion of the Christ" really put a lot of things into perspective for me. Growing up and hearing the stories of John, Judas, and Peter told and retold throughout years of Sunday School, I had always had my own images and visualizations of the Biblical tales. I'd read about Peter cutting off the Roman soldier's ear a hundred times, but I had never envisioned it quite like Mel Gibson had; Judas' demons were always a scary idea to me as a child, but Gibson took that fear to another level and, even though I am no longer a child, frightened me more than ever. As I matured year to year, my thoughts and reflections of each account changed, shifting the once immature pictures in my mind of His eloquent death to more grown-up ones of true

pain and ultimate sacrifice. But even in my 21-year-old mind, the images I held as my interpretation of the passages were nothing compared to those in "The Passion."

Almost as affecting as the film itself were the reactions from the audience members surrounding me. The inevitable sniffles accompanying the tears invisible in the theater's darkness were quick to begin, contagiously making their way through the crowd as early as Jesus' capture in the garden. Viewers were literally sobbing and wailing as Mary somberly—but calmly—seemed to accept her son's fate and watched Him choose His path. Even the teenage punks sitting in front of me gave up giggling at the criers eventually, and I saw the soft sparkle of tears in their eyes by the time of the Resurrection. It was pleasantly surprising—and hopeful—to see so many young people in attendance, seemingly of their own accord, sans the company of parents forcing them to view the film. At the first sign of the end credits, a still calm enveloped the theater: no one wanted to be the first to move. Finally, in a midst of applause, the public silently began to exit: no one wanted to be the first to speak. Even in my own circle of friends, none of us could quite think of much to say afterwards. Asking, "What'd you think of it?" was a rhetorical question and one that none of us wanted to voice. And when someone finally mumbled it, nervous glances were exchanged and cop-out answers were given, as no one really knew what to say.

Back on campus, I find myself answering friendly inquiries such as

"How was your weekend?" and "What did you think of the movie?" with a slow smile and an avoiding glance towards my feet. After viewing this film, every action seems insignificant. Not insignificant in a meaningless way, but insignificant in such a fashion that I feel like I need to be doing more than what I am. All I could think at dinner after seeing the film was, "Jesus died so that I could eat this pizza." Now with every thought I have, every word I speak, and every joke I laugh at, a nagging guilt tugs at me from the back of my head. I have witnessed history brought to life, the same history that is the staple of my being, and all I can do in accordance is eat pizza with my friends.

The graphic elements and reflection that ensued have forced me to question every decision I make. Is this the most I am capable of? Is this all I can give back to Him after He gave me so much? If not this, then what more would He have of me? These plaguing questions are not ones whose answers will be found soon, but with the help of what I've taken with me from "The Passion of the Christ" they will be easier to stomach when they confront me during trying times.

Lent is a tough time in our lives but we need to be strong when weakness is often knocking at our doors. I will, without a doubt, remember the vivid images from this film and they will help me realize that my pain—however heavy it may seem—is absolutely nothing in comparison to the pain that one individual bore so that I could be allowed to join Him ultimately.

Sometimes perspective is everything.

*"There is no end to the power of believing a solution is possible."*

-Bridget Newman,  
event coordinator

Peaceapalooza will return to SJC again this year on April 26<sup>th</sup> and run through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Following the success of the event in 2003, this year's week-long observance will include some new events as well as the old ones, such as a candle-light vigil honoring civilian and soldier war casualties and an instructed tie-dyeing session to create personalized event T-shirts.

To be involved in Peaceapalooza 2004, contact Bridget Newman by email at [bnh3998@saintjoe.edu](mailto:bnh3998@saintjoe.edu).

## WEEKEND SPRING FEVER SWEEPS SJC

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

With the recent unseasonable weather change, the SJC campus has quickly been thrown prematurely into spring fever. Students adorned with T-shirts and sandals left their hats and gloves at home last weekend and enjoyed impromptu sports in the IM field, sunshiny walks through the Grotto, and cruises through downtown-Rensselaer with the car windows down. When warm temperatures begin to take precedence over the dreariness of what always seems to be a relentless winter, it's never uncommon to see students slacking off from their studies, pulled into the powerful undertow of a warm breeze. Last weekend, however, was probably one of the worst times to have beautiful weather tempt students away from their commitments, with the Midterm Monster lurking in the corner and ever fast approaching. Students were spotted playing golf, bocce ball, and kickball in the IM field; sprawled out on the lawn sketching the newly-budding trees; catching and submitting to the spring cleaning bug; and relaxing on patios and balconies at the apartments. Books and notes were left inside—unopened—and "study breaks" were spent at Thursday's Mardi Gras dance and Saturday's Core XI Toga Party. Cramming was surely a consequence most students had to accept this week due to the weekend's procrastination—but it, without a doubt, was one that was warranted and thoroughly enjoyed by the masses.



Students play a relaxing game of bocce ball in the IM field.

## PAWS:

...to everyone working diligently to stick to their Lenten sacrifices.



## CLAWS:

...to everyone who either "forgot" or chose not to study for midterms.

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## Art Department Expands Space, Secures New Faculty

By Becky Scherer, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

Thanks to the recent acquisition of several grants and the enthusiasm of Associate Professor of Art Bonnie Zimmer, the Saint Joseph's College Art Department is in the midst of many changes - both aesthetic and curricular.

Perhaps the largest and most eagerly awaited by Zimmer is the addition of a new art studio to the two existing studios, located in SJC's Raleigh Hall. The new studio is adjacent to the existing Art Department space and was formerly used as a classroom and athletic meeting room. It will become the main studio, converting the former space into a painting and drawing studio complete with easels. Painting and drawing projects will be made easier and more efficient as the new studio will allow for easels and other equipment to be set up permanently. Modifications are also being made to the existing ceramic studio, allowing for stable displays and larger workspaces. "It was time," she said, "for a new space. We were simply out of room. The new art majors and increased enrollment have filled our already limited spaces beyond capacity."

The acquisition of several grants have helped purchase equipment and supplies for the developing ceramics program as well as glass materials for use in the new stained-glass classes, taught by David Herriott, retired art educator and professional glass artist. Zimmer has also used grant funds to refurbish the photography lab in the Halleck Student Center and purchase equipment and supplies. Mary Dahl, Photography Adjunct Professor, has developed the photography courses and "resurrected," as Zimmer called it, the darkroom. "Mary's redesigning of the old darkroom is a real tribute to her ingenuity and expertise. Students now have the opportunity to study art photog-

raphy as a part of their art studies, an important opportunity for future art teachers, artists or those seeking personal enrichment," Zimmer said. Teaching art history is SJC's own Rev. Lawrence Heiman, C.P.P.S. '40, who taught the first art history class at SJC in the 1950s. Heiman is currently teaching the prehistoric to Renaissance survey art history course.

Art-related collaborations with community groups such as the Prairie Arts Council (PAC), a group dedicated to the enrichment and exhibition of the fine arts, and Jasper County Youth Center allow art students unique opportunities to gain additional expertise and contribute to their community. Art Education students will be teaching workshops for the PAC's Junior Art Club for interested children, held at the youth center each Wednesday from now until May.

Also in conjunction with the PAC is a series of art exhibitions showcasing regional student art on display in the Rev. Charles Banet, C.P.P.S. Core Education Center throughout the months of February, March, and April. The exhibitions include work from regional elementary, middle, and high school students. SJC scholarships are awarded to the winners of the middle and high school art shows. In correlation, the work of SJC Art students and faculty was recently exhibited at the Carnegie Center's Lilian Fendig Gallery.

Proud of the involvement the department has taken in both Saint Joseph's College and the community, Zimmer is thankful for the opportunities the changes have allowed for her students. "The art program at Saint Joseph's College is truly a work in progress as it continues to develop and grow to become more involved in the greater community," she said.



Students in the Seminar in Applied Economics include: (Left to right) Thomas Kennedy, Brandi Pucka, Jacob Lofgren, John May (sitting), Andrew Barker, and Rob Siegel (sitting). Associate Professor of Economics and Finance, Michael J. Oakes, is supervising the program.

## SJC Economics Students Taking to the Streets

By Renee Pugh, *Publications and Media Relations Intern*

Economics students at Saint Joseph's College are leaving the classroom this semester and hitting the streets with a hands-on study of the main commercial business district in Rensselaer. "Rensselaer Market Analysis 2004" will provide a profile of Rensselaer businesses and the physical structures that house and surround them.

"These students are junior and senior economics majors who have studied a lot of economics in the classroom," said Michael Oakes, associate professor of economics and finance. "This project gives them the opportunity to apply what they have learned in these classes."

It will also benefit much of the Rensselaer business community, as well as city officials. The market analysis report will document basic business information and offer various perspectives on the types and groupings of products or services available.

"We can do some important but simple things once we collect the data," said junior economics student Robert Siegel. "For example, a cluster analysis of a map of the businesses will help us document customer traffic patterns."

"The report isn't prescriptive," explained Oakes. "Rensselaer business owners and managers already have a good feel for the market elements they

face. That's why they succeed." The report will formally document this information, however, giving businesses and city officials a common reference. It is also the type of information often required for a wide range of non-profit and government grants.

Oakes developed the project partly in response to the needs of the economic development committee of Main Street Rensselaer, a volunteer group organized to help city and business leaders continue to enhance the downtown area. "One of the first things this committee does in a community is hire a consultant to survey the businesses in the area," he explained. "We, however, have the benefit of having SJC in the community, and there was no need to hire a consultant when students could do the same surveying and analysis."

Oakes also believes this project will help prove the value of the town and campus working together. "Both Rensselaer and Saint Joseph's College have some wonderful assets. We should always be looking for ways to make these assets useful for the whole community."

Results of the report will be available online in April at [www.saintjoe.edu/rma](http://www.saintjoe.edu/rma) and made public in various presentations in the community.

## History of an SJC Patron: Saint Katharine Drexel

By Allison Glidewell, *Staff Writer*

March 3<sup>rd</sup> marked the Feast day of Saint Katharine Drexel, the Philadelphia-born heiress-turned-missionary and namesake of several structures on the SJC campus. Though she began her Native American ministry on the east coast, Drexel's charities eventually spread across the nation, touching Rensselaer, Indiana, along the way.

Drexel was born in 1858 to a wealthy Philadelphia banker and his wife. Her father was a philanthropist and taught the young girl to view her financial abundance as a blessing to be shared with others. Due to her wealth, Drexel was able to travel throughout the US, and her journeys exposed her to the poverty of Native Americans. Drexel was moved by their plight, and she began funding missions as a Catholic layperson. Saint Joseph's Normal School

for Indian Boys was formed during this period in her life.

The school was first an orphanage founded by local priest, Joesph Stephan, but after it closed in 1888, Drexel turned it into a school for Native American boys. The goal of the school was to train the students so that they could return to their reservations and help their people. It was staffed by members of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood who later would establish Saint Joseph's College. The school was only one example of Drexel's many missionary endeavors. Her involvement in the church soon took a drastic turn; after visiting Pope Leo XIII in Rome, she decided to become a nun at his urging. Drexel took her vows in 1891 and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a group that focused primarily

on the education of Native Americans and other minority groups.

From 1891 to 1935, Drexel founded schools across the nation, including Xavier University, the nation's only predominately black Catholic college. Though the Normal School for Indian Boys had to close in 1896, Drexel continued to serve as a voice for the oppressed minorities in America. In 1935 she suffered a heart attack that forced her into retirement, and she died in 1955 at the age of 97. However, Drexel's story does not end there; on October 1, 2000, Mother Katharine Drexel became the second native-born United States citizen to be declared a saint. She was canonized under Pope John Paul II, and her passion for social justice lives on through the Core program at SJC and through students who

hear of her good works and become inspired to follow her example in living out the Gospel message by reaching out to marginalized and oppressed people around the world.



## SJC Hosts Overnight

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

You may have noticed an increase in people attending dinner in the cafeteria Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>; if that didn't catch your attention, then the fact that the cafeteria actually served something edible (chicken nuggets) on Sunday certainly did. Well, the reason behind these occurrences happened to be one and the same: the Office of Admissions' Prospective Student Overnight.

High school juniors and seniors were able to RSVP for the Overnight to get a feel for what it is like to stay on campus for an extended period of time. Most of the SJC hosts are employees of the Admissions Office, but many other students are also invited to be hosts. As hosts, SJC students offer their time and open their rooms to the prospective students from Sunday afternoon to the following Monday afternoon. Hosts pick up their prospective student in the Core Lounge, and then proceed to spend the following two days with them, taking them along to meals, class, and SUB events occurring that weekend. Through this opportunity, hosts get to share their enthusiasm and love for Saint Joseph's College with the prospective students, and the prospective students are able to see if they feel comfortable on campus and if the SJC community is the right place for them.

This was my second year hosting, and I had a great time. My prospective student, Karla, was an awesome girl. We went to dinner, which allowed her to get a feel for the setup of the cafeteria and get to know some other students on campus. Following dinner, she got to experience a top-of-the line SUB event by seeing the hypnotist visiting campus that evening. We had a really good time, and it was a good way for her to see some of the events that SUB is responsible for bringing to the campus. After the hypnotist, she got a first-hand look at how most of my friends I and spend Sunday night: doing homework. Karla spent the night hanging out with us, watching TV, and just having a good time. The following day, I took her to breakfast and then she went with me to my Gilded Age literature class. After that, she went and sat in on a math class and then shadowed me at work in the Admissions Office. We ate lunch in the cafeteria, and then I walked her back to the Core Building for the closing remarks of the Overnight. Karla said the Overnight gave her the chance to see how much she really liked Saint Joseph's College, and that this was definitely where she wanted to go to school next year.

While many students often complain about hosting and the time it takes out of their busy schedules, one can't deny how important an event this is. Prospective students get a feel for campus in a way they can't in two to three hour visits and a campus tour. By getting to know other students, sitting in on classes, and seeing a typical day on campus, they are able to make a more educated decision about whether or not SJC is the right for them.

## Movie Review: The Passion of Christ

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

The AMC Theater in Merrillville was packed as anxious moviegoers from many walks of life converged to watch Mel Gibson's new and controversial film *The Passion of the Christ*. With much hullabaloo coming from religious and non-religious sects, the movie has engendered much conversation on the facts of Jesus' life. One can't walk down the street nowadays without getting some response about Gibson's new film, and the fact that the movie revolves around religious ideas has perhaps brought about an even stronger response than would be expected from a film more secular in nature. (In fact, according to some news sources, a woman actually died of a heart attack during a premiere viewing of the movie.)

The movie begins with the agony in the garden. Jesus (Jim Caviesel) was praying to his Father when all of a sudden he was captured. He is then dragged to official after official, being judged for "crimes" against Jewish law. The movie almost presents Jesus as a political scapegoat - even those who do not have a belief in Jesus' authenticity as the Christian will still be able to see the good of Jesus through the movie. The movie goes on through the Stations of the Cross and ends with a short symbolic representation of Jesus' resurrection. Though the resurrection was only inferred - as it only showed Jesus walking away from where his dead body had lain in the tomb - it still keeps with Gibson's realistic vision.

From the onset, the movie presents a very different portrayal of Jesus Christ's last few hours of life on Earth, as contrasted with such religious epics as Cecil B. DeMille's silent classic *The*

*King of Kings*—a realistic yet somewhat romantic portrayal of the Passion of Jesus. In contrast, Gibson's film succeeds with flying colors in displaying an exceptionally realistic vision of Jesus' Passion. In fact, the movie takes on an almost visceral quality as Jesus is flagellated severely from (literally) beginning to end. A fellow SJC student commented most implicitly that she almost felt a sense of remorse as her "dad" was virtually flogged to death.

Of course, the realism in the movie is not limited merely to the sadistic tendencies of Jesus' physical oppressors. In fact, there are places where it almost adds an element of levity to the film. For instance, Saint Joseph's College student Teresa Moreno said her favorite part of the movie was a flashback to Jesus making a wooden table at his home, to which Mary replied that this business of making tall tables with tall chairs "will never catch on."

The actors in the movie all contributed to create a sort of balance between dark and light; perhaps the best performance came from Maia Morgenstern, a Jewish actress who played Mary. Ms. Morgenstern attempted to get across the anguish of a mother losing her son. This and much more came across in the talented actress's portrayal of Mary, and the universality of her performance perhaps added a greater foundation in reality as opposed to only spirituality, which is exactly what filmmaker Gibson was shooting for.

*Passion* is certainly a film that has the capacity to affect anyone, and, if you are not faint of heart, you should definitely witness *The Passion*.

## Book Review: Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal

By Liz Henning, Staff Writer

Lately it seems as though religious controversy in cinema and literature has been given considerable coverage - and if you've made it through the last six months without hearing anything from the media feeding frenzy about *The Da Vinci Code* or Mel Gibson's *The Passion*, consider yourself lucky. So, in the wake of such issues, for this week's book review I've chosen *Lamb* by Christopher Moore, a comic rendition of the greatest story ever told, retold, translated, adapted in screenplay form, and edited to be politically correct.

"God is a comedian playing to an audience that is afraid to laugh." - Voltaire

Thus opens *Lamb*, and from the first the book is at once hilarious and sincere. Told through the eyes of Jesus' childhood friend Biff (his real name being Levi), the story chronicles the "missing years" of Jesus. However, when instructed by the angel Raziël to write his gospel, he finds it infinitely more difficult that he had suspected:

"The angel wants me to convey more of Joshua's grace. Grace? I'm trying to write bout a six year old, for Christ's sakes, how much grace could he have? It's not like Joshua walked around professing that he was the Son of God every day of the week. He was a pretty normal kid, for the most part...Once we found a dead meadowlark, and he bought it back to life, and there was the time when we were eight, when he healed his brother Judah's fractured skull when a game of "stone the adulteress" got out of hand. The miracles...were small and quiet, and miracles tend to be..."

While there are many historically and religiously accepted truths within *Lamb*, in the epilogue Moore states outright: "The book you just read is a story. I made it up. It is not designed to change anyone's beliefs or worldview, unless after reading it you've decided to be kinder to your fellow humans." Moore entwines history, humanity, and a sense of humor to create something unusual in literature: a novel about Jesus that's genuinely hilarious.

## Styling Sense

### Fake Baking

VS.

### Non-Stick Tans



Jen Zak  
Columnist

Spring break is upon us and for the lucky few who get to go somewhere warm and sunny, a tan will soon be upon them, too. For those of us who aren't so fortunate, we will return to our selective homes either to work or relax for the week. Since I don't normally reside in Florida but in Illinois, I will not have the opportunity to soak up the sun and get a natural tan before I come back, but I will be spending most of my time after work getting a quick sun kissed look. A 12 - second quick sun kissed look to be exact. I'm talking about the wonderful invention that is Mystic tanning. The mystic tanning machines use DHA-based dyes to enhance the color of the skin without the use of harsh UV rays like regular tanning beds.

I must admit I was nervous to go in the booth for the first time, but most places have an instructional video that explains everything you need to do once inside the booth. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I had a rich color just four hours after using the mystic tan booth, and it lasted for up to 5 days. While it is rather expensive to go mystic tanning, it is much safer than tanning in a regular bed or soaking up the sun outside. For a list of locations in your area, visit [www.mystictan.com](http://www.mystictan.com).

If you decide to try mystic tanning, exfoliate first so that the tan will last longer. Also do not shower for four hours afterwards to increase the intensity of the tan. If you still decide to bake in the sun or in a tanning bed, be sure to use a sunscreen and know the risks of UV rays on your health. Have a safe and enjoyable spring break!

# Review: *The Vagina Monologues*

"Violence against women is a feminist issue? I don't think it is."  
- Eve Ensler, *The Vagina Monologues*

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

The first rule of thumb for talking about the vagina is to be proud and sing its praises, which is exactly what Eve Ensler does in her half dozen searing (and sometimes hilarious) monologues. *The Vagina Monologues* have become a sort of pop culture phenomenon since dramatist Eve Ensler first performed her one-woman show several years ago. The content and intelligence of Ensler's work succeeds and transcends gender.

In one of the most touching, eloquent monologues, Ensler compares the vagina to a heart about birth. Then, she compares it to a village in the most moving monologue about rape in Bosnia. She delivers the latter like an exquisite poem, breathing in one phrase, breathing out in the next, turning her head to the side when speaking for the young girl sodomized by soldiers, and facing forward in full light for her metaphors. Ensler passionately details the account of some thirty victims from the Bosnian camp as she describes the horrors forced upon the victims by their captors. She effectively



builds the drama as well as the horror of the moment, leaving the audience waiting on her every word. I couldn't say anything. I was speechless.

Other moments are played more for humor though, including a chapter entitled "The Flood," where Ensler recounts her discussions with elderly women about their vaginas, including one seventy-two-year-old woman who had never even seen her own vagina and subsequently spent time in therapy.

What I found most impressive about *The Vagina Monologues* is that Ensler is relentlessly straightforward and honest. The issues presented are sensitive topics, and many performance artists could easily fall into the trappings of making it either too erotic or perhaps even too tongue-in-cheek, but she does not. What she does so well is confront hot button issues in a frank, forthcoming manner. For any gender, *The Vagina Monologues* is a pleasure to watch, covering every degree of human emotion.

Interested in writing features?

Email Natalie Lapacek at nli4438@saintjoe.edu.

## Stuff



John Ligda  
Columnist

Surely some students on this campus know the history of the College grounds and buildings. Fr. Gerlock's annual lecture for freshmen seminar groups is a pretty big hit among freshman... well, at least among the upper classmen and faculty. Buildings have come and gone, the newest of the flock, of course, being the Residential Suites and the Core Building. Probably the most valuable building on campus was the one which suffered a tragic death: the old Administration Building.

The Administration Building stood between the Chapel and the main driveway overlooking the pond. The building was a massive structure that was architecturally designed to complement the Chapel and Gasper Hall. Many old pictures of the College's entryway feature the Administration building in the background. The building housed the registrar, bank, vaults, and the President's office, as well as classrooms, academic offices, and, at one time, a dormitory. In the College's early years, it was literally the entire College. When Congressman Charlie Halleck retired to Rensselaer, the College granted the politician an office located just inside one of the entrances of the building.

It was in the wee hours of the morning of Sunday, February 4, 1973, that the building mysteriously caught fire. The cause of the fire was never formally determined, but later was thought to have been faulty electrical wiring. Because the building was erected in the late 1800s, the primary material used was wood, which caused the fire to burn faster. The Rensselaer Fire Department worked vigorously through the night to contain the blaze. At that time, the fire department did not have the necessary hook and ladder system, which might have prevented the loss of the entire structure. It was because of this fire that

the town finally saw the need for it and purchased such a truck. Also aiding in the blaze that night was a southwest wind, which kept the fire from spreading to the Chapel. Had it not been for Mother Nature, the Chapel surely would have been lost.

Students from across campus fled their beds in the middle of the night to help rescue items from the building. Groups of students carried filing cabinets, expensive artwork, and trophies, as well as a small safe which contained a set of precious gold coins. Fearing that the temperature inside the safe melted the coins, the maintenance staff spent a couple of days hosing down the safe. When they opened it, they found everything—including the gold coins—intact. Senior Michael Dougherty's parents were one of a couple hundred students who assisted in the rescue efforts that cold morning. The mural on the south end of the first floor of the Halleck Student Center depicts the Administration Building fire. There you can see the students carefully removing the safe from the blazing inferno.

The College canceled all classes for the entire week following the loss. The administration used that time to move their offices into the recently vacated Xavier Hall, which we still use today (renamed Xavier-McHale Hall). The insurance policy for the old Administration Building covered only about 50 percent of the damage costs, which was not nearly enough to begin building a new structure. Instead, the administration decided to start a "Brick-by-Brick" campaign. The residents of Rensselaer and surrounding communities donated thousands of dollars to help get the project running, but for some reason the College decided not to build a new building. Instead they put the money to use in renovating other structures to better serve the campus' needs. It was not until 1996 when the Core Building was built that the College gained back some of the needed space it lost when the Administration Building was destroyed.

# A Satire: WPUM TV6 News

By Joe Larson, Staff Writer

If you like lots of uppercase letters and a number at the end, then you'll love WPUM TV6. That's the technical designation for TV6 News, the live news program of Saint Joseph's College. The College has had its own news program for about twenty years. TV6 News airs live on Channel 6 every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. It is then rerun every day at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. until the following Tuesday. The program focuses primarily on events that happen on campus, which is exactly why it only comes on once a week. Actually, TV6 News is live only once a week because of the immense amount of work that must be put into every broadcast. In fact, producing one live show is so hard that being an SJC reporter edges out coal mining and human bomb testing as the most difficult job in North America.

TV6 News is a CNN affiliate, meaning they blame a small idol of Ted

Turner when things go wrong. "Thou shalt make no graven images" doesn't apply here because Turner is way richer than God. Being a CNN affiliate also means that the College gets national and international news stories through a dish pointing at the CNN satellite. Perhaps someday the College satellite dish will be put toward a more worthwhile task, like pirating HBO or giving small children radiation. (This might sound far fetched, but do-it-yourself death ray kits are becoming highly affordable). The TV6 News team tries to relate national and international stories to events happening on campus. For example, they followed coverage of the Iraq War with a story about the bloody civil war raging between Justin East and West.

Working on the show are director Eric Peschke, producer Matt LeClaire, and talents John Westerfield, Rachel Winings, Bridget Newman, and Megan Lechtanski. A talent is someone

who can perform a superhuman feat, like juggling babies or taking down a live gorilla. For this reason, auditions are particularly grueling, and the EPA has had to step in more than once to stop the gorilla-related carnage. Like most other news programs, TV6 News has two anchors - one male and one female. The theory is that if the apocalypse occurs during a live broadcast and spares only the news station, the anchors can repopulate the earth and have plenty of babies to juggle.

Saint Joseph's College has become known as a school that produces producers, which is better than its previous reputation for producing under-achievers and high quality LSD. One graduate, Kris Schubach, is now a leading reporter for WTHR, which is Channel 13 in Indianapolis. Among other notable figures, Schubach has interviewed the Pope.

Professor Fred Berger said in no

uncertain terms that if I misrepresented the Puma news team, he would have two very large men break my legs. Since having un-broken legs is something of an obsession of mine, I'll close on this note: The TV6 news team is a group of hardworking individuals who do their job with diligence and professionalism. They are well prepared for all real world news-room situations.

*\*\* This article is a comedic satire and is not intended to undermine the work of the WPUM TV6 News staff. It does not reflect the views of the editorial staff of "The Observer."*

TV6 News airs live on Channel 6 every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. and every other day at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. until the following Tuesday.

## Health Tips College Kids Should Know!

**Bridget Newman**  
Editor in Chief

Below are a list of various health tips I've heard and what I think about them. There has been so much recent emphasis on exercise and diets that I think it's vital to give the matter some thought. I'm no expert, but you may want to consider some of my considerations.

*Note: Check with a doctor if you are planning on dieting or changing your health habits.*

"Water is the perfect drink." Rumor has it that if you drink eight 8-oz. glasses of water a day your body will thank you. This is a tip you'll hear just about anywhere and I think it's a good one. If they're wrong, it's just water so at least no harm can come from it. Plus, Walgreens has water jugs with handles and convenient lids that are nice and cheap!

"Start everyday with breakfast, the most important meal of the day." It's supposed to start your metabolism working so it'll be on work-mode all day long. It's important to remember that eating pancakes and biscuits and gravy probably isn't the way to go, though.

"The Atkins diet works!" I've heard testimonials backing this

statement, but I've also heard that while this low-carb diet will help you get rid of the weight, if you stray from it the pounds will come back much faster. If you're considering this diet, don't forget eating moderate portions might be the way to go instead of cutting out foods from one of the key food groups.

"Try workout tapes like 'Darren's Dance Grooves' and 'Carmen Electra's Aerobic Striptease.'" I have tried the "Dance Grooves" and found the dancing, while fun, was taught too quickly to pick up. I improv-ed some moves and decided that I may make my own dance video someday. The "Aerobic Striptease" looks tempting and I plan on giving it a whirl (when one of my roommates buys it).

"Don't act as if resisting food is killing you." Yeah, tell that to my stomach when mozzarella sticks, pizza bread, and 39-cent McDonald's cheeseburgers call out in the middle of the night.

"I'll just take diet pills!" My answer here: I don't recommend them. When it was still legal I took the ones that were not ephedra free; I became too crazed to eat or do just about anything! The safest way to maintain your health is eating right and exercising regularly. Remember: there's more to being healthy than being fit - be happy!

## Adam Mandon Speaks: On the Bartman Ball



If you want to comment on Mandon's article, send your thoughts to:

[bnh3998@saintjoe.edu](mailto:bnh3998@saintjoe.edu)

I hate the Bartman Ball. Not because it cost the Cubs the pennant, but because it has absolutely nothing to do with baseball. This non-entertaining ceremony advertised and enhanced by the Worldwide Leader in Sports has glamorized an inanimate baseball and turned it into an American icon. Sportscenter's opening story lasted twenty minutes with live reports from Harry Caray's Restaurant covering everything from the last words of the ball to what its final meal was. This circus of an affair proves to everyone the Cubs are not just about baseball; it is a gigantic party where fun comes first, drinking in the middle, then baseball is tied in at some point.

Baseball purists claim Cubs baseball is as old fash-

ioned and retro as it gets, but they fail to mention the reality that most Cub fans fail to pay attention to the game. If Cub baseball was pure and retro, why do they do this hokey crap? As a fan of Chicago sports, I am embarrassed. This type of entertainment belongs on the west coast, or in a small town in the middle of Wahoo, Nebraska.

The explosion of the baseball will assure Cub fans there will be no lingering effects of a curse. Perhaps the goat should have been blown up? How about this: the goat eats the ball. The black cat from 1969 is trapped in a glass case to be blown up with the goat together. This way all three of the curses are wiped out and the Cubs can be guaranteed a World Series title. Give me a break.

## A Cheerleader Comments on the End on an Era

**Allison Segarra**  
Reporter

I can feel the sweat build up on my palms as I stand center court staring into the eyes of my fellow cheerleaders. We begin to clap with the crowd as the announcer enthusiastically says, "And now the starting lineup for our Saint Joseph's College Pumas!" I crouch to the floor, placing my hands around the foot of a squad member. The announcer continues confidently, "Jake Argenta"... I push upward starting with my legs and extend my arms skyward..."Greg Muller"...I lock all of my muscles and stare up at my flyer..."Corey Seegers"...She begins to clap..."Jamie Holden"... A wide smile forms across the flyer's face as she throws her arms up in the air to show support..."Sherman Foster." The cheerleading squad sets for dismount; we throw hard and high and the exhilaration of the starting lineup is over, but I know that I am speaking for all of SJC when I say that the names called will resound in our ears and hearts for years to come.

I have cheered for the SJC basketball team for two invigorating years. I have watched them dunk, dribble, sweat, slide, swish, rebound, reject, and most importantly grow and mature as individuals and as a team. Holden reflected, "From freshman year until now I have learned a lot about basketball. I have matured as a player through all of my experi-

ences. For the rest of my life I will remember playing basketball at SJC. The memories won't be as much about my individual accomplishments as those made by the team and my teammates."

"...this has been an amazing, humbling experience, and I would not trade it for anything."

*Greg Muller, senior*

I wish that I could have seen their first two years, but all of the men's players agree that this past year has been the best. Greg Muller said, "After this year I feel a sense of accomplishment." Corey Seegers agreed, adding, "The success we have had this year says a lot about our progress as a team throughout the past couple of years." Sherman Foster's feelings about this year can be summed up in two influential sentences, "If there is a will there is a way. SJC: from nothin' to somethin'."

Holden and Muller agree that their time here at SJC has gone by very fast. Muller said that he has played some of the best games with some of the best people since he has been here. "If you had asked me ten years ago if I would end up in Indiana I would have laughed in your face, but this has been an amazing, humbling experience, and I would not trade it for anything."

Marvin Smith, who will play his senior season next year, gave his thought on the team. "I have played ball with

these guys for four years and I couldn't have played with a better group." It is quite apparent to me that this group of guys are more than teammates, they are also best friends. Off the court they live together, eat together, and of course party together! "Friendships will be missed more than anything," Seegers admitted. Holden also said, "I have met some of my best friends while playing here." Muller agreed that it was definitely "...the people that made my time here that much more special."

Last year I had the pleasure of traveling with my squad to support the basketball guys at the conference tournament. Seegers said, "GLVC is the toughest conference in the country and I am excited about going to the tournament for the second time." Muller agreed: "GLVC is the best conference in the country and I am going to miss it a lot." Unfortunately, the cheerleading squad is not able to attend the tournament this year, but I would like to say from all of us: "Good luck and best wishes; you guys deserve it!"

It is always so hard to say

"As a team you can accomplish anything if you always stick together and keep the end goal in sight."

*Corey Seegers, senior*

goodbye, but SJC has a lot to look forward to in terms of basketball. These hard-working seniors have set the trend

for underclassmen and players to come. Words of wisdom for remaining teammates come from Seegers: "I wish them the best of luck. Keep your heads up; there will always be those ups and downs. As a team you can accomplish anything if you always stick together and keep the end goal in sight."

The Puma Cheerleading Squad has been blessed to be able to support this great group of guys. Our only senior, Theresa Yoder (who will be missed dearly), has this to say about her career here: "I've enjoyed cheering at SJC for four years. The squad has done a phenomenal job. Thanks to all of the Puma fans who supported the squad and the basketball teams throughout the season. Keep up the spirit! Go Pumas!"

**Congratulations to  
the men's and  
women's basketball  
teams on an out-  
standing season.  
Good luck to the  
men as they head to  
the GLVC tourna-  
ment on Friday,  
March 5th!**

# John Simon: Undefeated



## Favorites:

Movie: Rounders  
Song: "Hit Somebody  
(The Hockey Song)"  
Musician: Blink-182  
Food: Ribs  
Class: Economics  
Professor: Kemp  
Sport: Hockey  
Athlete: Andre Agassi

Elizabeth Kloczek  
Reporter

Freshman John Simon has been playing tennis since the seventh grade. At SJC he plays both singles and doubles matches, and is one of three freshmen starters for the men's tennis team. As of February 28th, Simon's record was 11-0.

As a tennis player, Simon feels his weakness lies in his temper. "I get

angry a lot; when I am angry I play really badly." But despite this weakness, Simon feels his strength lies in his versatility as a player. He says he does not have just one style of play; he can win using a variety of techniques.

Simon feels that the SJC team is quite close. He commented that they all get along, a valuable asset in any sport. Simon also commented that the team is strong as a whole this year.

When asked to compare high school athletics with those at the college level, Simon commented that, though high school might have been more fun and a bit easier, athletics at the collegiate level are more competitive and demanding. The team practices in the afternoons, but they are also known to practice week-nights from 10:30pm to midnight. During practices they play both singles and doubles matches and complete drills.

The SJC tennis team will be spending their spring break in Hawaii, playing three matches in four days against Hawaii-Hilo, BYU-Hawaii, and Chaminade. Prior to the trip, Simon comments that these will be three difficult teams to go up against, one of which is the defending national champions. Though the competition will be tough, Simon predicts the team will still have a good time.

As a new Puma, Simon says about SJC: "It's a good school . . . I like the small class sizes because the professors really get to know you." Simon is a business administration major from Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

## Upcoming Games, Meets & Matches

### Baseball

The baseball team will be playing games in Florida from March 6th - March 11th. Their first home games are on March 17th against Lewis University at 12:00pm and 2:00pm and on March 18th against Valparaiso University at 2:00pm.

### Softball

The softball team will be playing games in Florida from March 7th - March 12th. Their first home games are on March 25th against St. Francis, Indiana, at 3:00pm and 5:00pm.

### Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team will playing matches in Hawaii from March 7th - March 10th. Their first home match is against Manchester on March 16th at 3:00pm.

### Track & Field

The men and women's track and field teams travel to Massachusetts for the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships on March 12th and 13th. The next home meet is on March 27th at 10:00am.

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.

Lou Holtz,  
Hall of Fame football coach and player



    
SJC  
FAN  
CLUB



Let's Go



Pumas!



Are you interested in writing for the sports page either this semester or next year? Contact Sports Editor Bridget Newman at [bnh3998@saintjoe.edu](mailto:bnh3998@saintjoe.edu)!

# Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Are you experiencing a dry spell in the areas of school or work? If you've been feeling bored lately, there may be a reason for this. Spend some time away from these areas and really think about how you're feeling, and you will most likely discover something about yourself that you have been afraid to admit.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your financial situation is extremely crucial right now, and you may soon find yourself in a predicament that you won't know how to get out of. Your best bet is to swallow your pride if this happens and ask for help. Those around you are more than willing to help you out, as they know you will pay them back.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You're feeling very serious and determined to reach your goals, so it is very likely that you will soon receive a payoff for all of your hard work. While you will have every right to be proud of what you have accomplished, be sure not to let this pride go to your head, as it will drive many of your friends away.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Be wary of any gifts that may soon come your way, especially if they seem too good to be true. It is very likely that someone may be offering you a gift because of a hidden motive they have, and by accepting you may set yourself up for something you don't want, so be sure it's genuine before you accept it.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Someone with whom you're acquainted may soon surprise you by becoming a good friend. Even though this person is not a likely match for a friendship, giving him or her a chance will be quite beneficial to you. Different types of people can open your eyes to many new things, so welcome this person into your life.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Even though you are an inherently generous person, you must take care right now not to do anything for anyone that they can do for themselves. Doing so may only give people the impression that you are a pushover, and you will soon find yourself in over your head with people taking advantage of you.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

Your life seems to be going fairly well right now, and for the first time in a while you feel content with everything. Be careful not to fall into the trap of being too content, however, because as soon as you do this, you will find that everything will start crashing down on top of you. Don't take what you have for granted!

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

You're usually very tactful and considerate of other people's feelings, but right now you're feeling a bit off. The stress in your life may be affecting you to the point where you are forgetting about others' feelings, so be sure to remind yourself of this before you open your mouth. Don't forget to relax!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Even though you're feeling very overwhelmed with all that's on your plate right now, make sure you realize that opportunities only come to those who practice hard work and discipline. Soon enough all of your work will pay off, and you will be better off in the end than those who only put forth half the effort.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If you find yourself in a difficult situation in the next few days, your best bet is to rely on someone older and wiser to impart their wisdom of years to you. Even though you think you know it all, you don't, so asking someone who's more experienced will prove to be extremely beneficial to your situation.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You're very tired right now, as all of your school work and activities have been taking a toll on your body. Make sure you get enough rest, as a lack of rest could result in sickness. You must remember that you can only do so much, and attempting more than you can handle could be hazardous to your health.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It is not advisable for you to go on a shopping extravaganza right now, as you are feeling very indecisive and will have a difficult time choosing what you really want. Wait until you are feeling more confident before taking out your wallet, as a failure to do so could result in monetary problems in the future.

## STRANGE LAWS

courtesy of <http://www.strangefacts.com/laws.html>

*The following laws are supposedly real laws, and most are still effective in the present day. Most likely, however, they are not enforced. Read on to see why!*

- In Philadelphia, you can't put pretzels in bags based on an act in 1760.
- Alaska law says that you can't look at a moose from an airplane.
- In Illinois, the law is that a car must be driven with the steering wheel.
- In West Virginia, only babies can ride in a baby carriage.
- In Kentucky, it's the law that a person must take a bath once a year.
- In Utah, birds have the right of way on any public highway.
- In Massachusetts, it is against the law to put tomatoes in clam chowder.
- In North Carolina, it is against the law for a rabbit to race down the street.

## SJC Poet's Corner

### Only in my Dreams

You know it very much seems,  
I am only free to do as I please  
in my dreams.  
And play though I may,  
And fight though I might,  
Life in my dreams  
Brings more delight  
Than anything else that I can do.  
The treasures of my life  
Are quaint and few.  
The pain of the sane,  
The cries of their lies,  
Are nothing to me.  
They are your demise.  
I have the prophecy in my mind.  
To you it is deranged,  
For you are blind.  
Someday you will say,  
Sometime you will find,  
That your life was trivial,  
And mine was sublime.

-Kyle Bender

### who's here?

who hears the tears when I cry?  
who hears the fears I have in the night?  
who steers me clear when I'm not in  
the right?  
who cheers me from the lonely cold of  
being alone?  
who's here?  
who's merely here, and who's here to  
hear me?

-Kenny Shumard

### Untitled

My stomach growls from hunger  
As though I haven't eaten in years  
My eyes are too dry to cry  
From losing all my tears  
As pain rushes down my back  
And my limbs go numb  
Am I dreaming?  
Death has come  
Breaking down the door in the back  
As God chooses to knock in the front  
And on the side  
Still I sit by  
Waiting on Death  
Missing chance after chance  
To accept Eternal Life  
I hate just getting by  
Still I say that it's by God's Grace  
That each day  
I don't have to face  
What's coming through my back door  
My trust pushes me to the right  
The door opens and it's a light  
Death is now removed  
And my Love is renewed  
I haven't found God  
For He was never lost  
I just had to open my heart  
And let Him in at all cost

-Melissa Alba

### Where is the Love?

With change as our constant and death  
our certainty:  
I take a look at the world around me;  
all I see is hunger and poverty.  
All I see is individuality,  
when we all belong to the same commu-  
nity.  
Whatever happened to the goodness of  
humanity?  
I take a look at the world I am in;  
all I see indifference and sin.  
All I see is inequality  
when all we need is to accept diversity.  
Whatever happened to learning was "to  
feel beauty"?  
I take a look at the world as a whole;  
all I see is a bunch of lost souls.  
All I see is people living independently,  
when all we need is a little unity.  
Whatever happened to fellowship and ca-  
maraderie?  
Just like the B. E. P.  
I ask:  
Where is the Love?

-Stephen Kraemer

## Featured Writer: Danny Waclaw

In the last issue of The Observer, many of you probably read the poem "A Plea to All Students," written by Et Cetera editor Sandra Wood. The poem was an act of desperation, asking students to send in their poetry to The Observer for publication in the SJC Poet's Corner. Much to The Observer staff's delight, many poems were submitted for this issue (even more than could fit on the page!).

By far, however, the most creative piece received was written in direct response to "A Plea to All Students," and this poem, written by Danny Waclaw, is also a parody of poet Tess Gallagher's famous poem "I Stop Writing the Poem." Both Gallagher's poem and Waclaw's poem appear below. Thanks again to all of you who have taken the time and effort to submit a poem to this page!

### I Stop Writing the Poem by Tess Gallagher

to fold the clothes. No matter who lives  
or who dies, I'm still a woman.  
I'll always have plenty to do.  
I bring the arms of his shirt  
together. Nothing can stop  
our tenderness. I'll get back  
to the poem. I'll get back to being  
a woman. But for now  
there's a shirt, a giant shirt  
in my hands, and somewhere a small  
girl  
standing next to her mother  
watching to see how it's done.

### I Start Writing the Poem by Danny Waclaw

to appease Sandra Wood. No matter  
what  
it is about, I'm still sure she'll be thrilled  
to see something.  
I never have enough to do, anyway.  
I add adjectives and nouns  
together. Nothing can stop  
my rambling. I'll get back to  
normalcy. I'll get back to being  
lazy. But for now  
there's a poem, a tiny, crappy poem  
at my lap, and somewhere an editor  
hopefully getting a chuckle out of this  
and putting it in print.

### ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Do you have an original poem, short story, or other creative expression that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at [swh4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:swh4014@saintjoe.edu) to submit your work.

Want to see your poetry in print? Submit your original work of poetry to Sandra Wood at [swh4014@saintjoe.edu](mailto:swh4014@saintjoe.edu)!